

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 24 and add new claims 25-31 as follows:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of providing a video program in response to a demand by a subscriber, wherein the video program is repeatedly transmitted on one of a plurality of channels by a headend, each repeated transmission separated from a previous transmission by a predetermined period of time, the method comprising the steps of:

inserting a trigger into the video program at a predetermined transition point;

delivering a first portion of the one video program available for viewing on demand;

storing the first portion of the video program as unencrypted data on a digital video recorder (DVR);

offering the video program for purchase by the subscriber;

accepting a subscriber demand to purchase the complete video program;

retrieving the stored first portion of the at least one video program from the DVR after accepting a subscriber demand to purchase the complete video program;

authorizing capture and decryption of a remaining portion of purchased video program from the headend;

switching from the stored first unencrypted portion of the at least one video program to the remaining portion of the purchased video program at a time indicated by the trigger.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step of delivering a portion of at least one video program further comprises delivering a portion of at least one video program on a hidden channel.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the remaining portion comprises less than all of the program and including at least the portion not stored in the first portion.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step of switching from the stored first unencrypted portion of the at least one video program to the remaining portion of the video program further comprises switching to the remaining portion at one of a plurality of predetermined transition points determined by the trigger.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of purchasing a program on demand comprising the steps of:

- receiving a first unencrypted portion of the program for purchase from a headend;
- storing the received first unencrypted portion of the program for later purchase on a subscriber's digital video recorder;
- offering the program for purchase;
- selecting the program for purchase;
- retrieving the stored first unencrypted portion of the selected program from the subscriber's digital video recorder for viewing by the subscriber;
- receiving a remaining portion of the selected program from the headend;
- authorizing storage of the program by the subscriber's digital video recorder according to a subscription service level;
- if the storage of the program is authorized, splicing the first unencrypted portion of the selected program with the remaining portion of the selected program to form a complete program;
- storing the complete program on the digital video recorder for a predetermined period of time.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the step of receiving the first unencrypted portion of a program further comprises receiving the first unencrypted portion of the program over a channel that is hidden to the subscriber but recognized by the digital video recorder.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the step of receiving the first unencrypted portion of the program further comprises receiving information about the program in addition to the first unencrypted portion.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the information in addition to the first unencrypted portion further comprises information selected from the group comprising promotional video, additional description about the program and program reviews.

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9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 8 further comprising the step of offering a free preview of a program from the stored first unencrypted portion.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said step of splicing the first unencrypted portion of the selected program with the remaining portion of the selected program to form the complete program comprises the steps of:

inserting triggers at predetermined transition points in the remaining portion of the selected program;

delivering the inserted triggers with the program;

identifying the inserted triggers at the digital video recorder for switching from the stored first unencrypted portion of the program to the remaining portion of the program.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the triggers are delivered with the program.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the triggers are included with a service's metadata.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus configured to provide a program in response to a subscriber demand comprising:

a digital video recorder being an integrated receiver/decoder having digital video recording capabilities, the digital video recorder comprising;

a first unencrypted portion of a program stored on the digital video recorder;

means for accepting an offer to purchase the program;

means for retrieving the first unencrypted portion from storage on the digital video recorder while retrieving a remaining portion of the program from a headend;

means for authorizing decryption of the remaining portion of the program;

means for splicing the first unencrypted portion of the at least one program with the remaining portion of the program to define a complete program;

means for storing the complete program on the digital video recorder.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein the offer to purchase the program further comprises a program guide stored on the digital video recorder.

15. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14 further comprising a channel hidden from the program guide but known by the digital video recorder for sending the first unencrypted portion to the digital video recorder for storage thereon.

16. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein the means for splicing the first unencrypted portion with the remaining portion further comprises triggers inserted into the remaining portion at predetermined transition points for identification by the digital video recorder as a point of transition between the first unencrypted portion and the remaining portion.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein at least a portion of the program is repeatedly transmitted on one of a plurality of channels, each repeated transmission separated from a previous transmission by a predetermined period of time.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the at least a portion of the program consists of the remaining portion of the program.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the at least a portion of the program comprises the entire program.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the trigger is included in a vertical blanking interval of the video program.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the video program is associated with services metadata and the trigger is included with the services metadata.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the DVR determines when to store the first unencrypted program of the at least one video program based on received metadata.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the first portion of the at least one video program is unencrypted.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of providing a video program in response to a demand by a subscriber, wherein the video program is repeatedly transmitted on one of a plurality of channels by a headend, each repeated transmission separated from a previous transmission by a predetermined period of time, the method comprising the steps of:

inserting a trigger into the video program at a predetermined transition point;  
delivering a first portion of the one video program available for viewing on demand;  
storing the first portion of the video program as unencrypted data on a digital video recorder (DVR);

offering the video program for purchase by the subscriber;  
accepting a subscriber demand to purchase the complete video program;  
retrieving the stored first portion of the at least one video program from the DVR after accepting a subscriber demand to purchase the complete video program;  
authorizing capture and decryption of a remaining portion of purchased video program from the headend; and

switching from the stored first unencrypted portion of the at least one video program to the remaining portion of the purchased video program at a time indicated by the trigger;

The method of claim 1, wherein the delivered first portion of the at least one video program is encrypted and includes conditional access metadata and the method further comprises the steps of:

determining if reception of the first portion is authorized according to a subscription service level;

if reception of the first portion is authorized, determining if decryption of the received first portion is authorized based on received conditional access metadata including an entitlement control message; and

if decryption of the received first portion is authorized, decrypting the first portion of the at least one video program before storage on the DVR.

25. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein said step of delivering a portion of at least one video program further comprises delivering a portion of at least one video program on a hidden channel.

26. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein the remaining portion comprises less than all of the program and including at least the portion not stored in the first portion.

27. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein said step of switching from the stored first unencrypted portion of the at least one video program to the remaining portion of the video program further comprises switching to the remaining portion at one of a plurality of predetermined transition points determined by the trigger.

28. (NEW) The method of claim 24, wherein the trigger is included in a vertical blanking interval of the video program.

29. (NEW) The method of claim 24, wherein the video program is associated with services metadata and the trigger is included with the services metadata.

30. (NEW) The method of claim 24, wherein the DVR determines when to store the first unencrypted program of the at least one video program based on received metadata.

31. (NEW) The method of claim 24, wherein the first portion of the at least one video program is unencrypted.